

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/785,629

Examiner

Quang T Van

Applicant(s)

IJJIMA ET AL.

Art Unit

3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 11/10/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-43 and 51-53.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

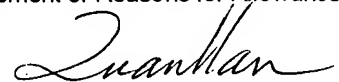
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Quang T Van
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3742

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: allowance of claims 1-43 and 51-53 is indicated because the prior art of record does not show or suggest computing device computes supply predetermined electric power to be supplied to the induction heating devices in order to heat the steel product so that the steel product has a surface temperature equal to or lower than a first target temperature while being heated, and a difference between a second target temperature and a temperature which the steel product has a predetermined position in the thickness direction of the steel product when the heating is completed falls within a predetermined range, or so that the steel product has a surface equal to or higher than a third target temperature while being heated and has a temperature equal to or lower than a fourth target temperature at the predetermined position in the thickness direction of the steel product when the heating is completed as recited in claims 1-28; the first and second computing devices compute supply predetermined electric power to be supplied to the induction heating devices in order to heat the steel product so that the steel product has a surface temperature equal to or lower than a first target temperature while being heated, and a difference between a second target temperature and a temperature which the steel product has a predetermined position in the thickness direction of the steel product when the heating is completed falls within a predetermined range, or so that the steel product has a surface equal to or higher than a third target temperature while being heated and has a temperature equal to or lower than a fourth target temperature at the predetermined position in the thickness direction of the steel product when the

heating is completed as recited in claim 29; a step of computing supply predetermined electric power to be supplied to the induction heating devices in order to heat the steel product so that the steel product has a surface temperature equal to or lower than a first target temperature while being heated, and a difference between a second target temperature and a temperature which the steel product has at a predetermined position in the thickness direction of the steel product when the heating is completed falls within a predetermined range; or a step of computing supply predetermined electric power to be supplied to the induction heating devices in order to heat the steel product so that the steel product has a surface temperature equal to or higher than a third target temperature while being heated and has a temperature equal to or lower than a fourth target temperature at the predetermined position in the thickness direction of the steel product when the heating is completed as recited in claims 30-43 and 51-53.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang T Van whose telephone number is 571-272-4789. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00Am 7:00Pm M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



QV
December 21, 2004



Quang T Van
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742